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cently described the mode of deposit of its eggs employed by a species of tree-frog (*Polypedates*) from tropical Western Africa. This species deposits its eggs, as is usual among batrachians, in a mass of albuminous jelly; but instead of placing this in the water, it attaches it to the leaves of trees which border the shore and overhang a water-hole or pond. Here the albumen speedily dries, forming a horny or glazed coating of the leaf, inclosing the unimpregnated eggs in a strong envelope. Upon the advent of the rainy season, the albumen is softened, and with the eggs is washed into the pool below, now filled with water. Here the male frog finds the masses, and occupies himself with their impregnation.

A SNAKE-EATING SNAKE. — Some years ago Professor Cope described the snake-eating habits of the *Oxyrrhopus plumbeus* Wied, a rather large species of snake which is abundant in the intertropical parts of America. A specimen of it from Martinique was observed to have swallowed the greater part of a large *fer-de-lance*, the largest venomous snake in the West Indies. The *Oxyrrhopus* had seized the *fer-de-lance* by the snout, thus preventing it from inflicting fatal wounds, and had swallowed a great part of its length, when caught and preserved by the collector. More recently a specimen was brought by Mr. Gabb from Costa Rica, almost five feet in length, which had swallowed nearly three feet of a large harmless snake (*Herpetodryas carinatus*) about six feet in length. The head was partially digested, while three feet projected from the mouth of the *Oxyrrhopus* in a sound condition. The *Oxyrrhopus* is entirely harmless, although spirited and pugnacious in its manners. Professor Cope suggests that its introduction into regions infested with venomous snakes, like the island of Martinique, would be followed by beneficial results. The East Indian snake-eater, *Naja elaps*, is unavailable for this purpose, as it is itself one of the most dangerous of venomous snakes.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NOTES. — In the third part of the *Bulletin de la Société d'Anthropologie* for 1875 is a paper by M. Coudereau on articulate sounds, with five tables of classification. This paper merited sufficient attention to justify the appointment of a committee consisting of MM. Chauvée, Picot, Hovelacque, Coudereau, De Caix St. Aymour, Millescamps, De Charencey, Andre Lefevre, Krishaber, Parrot, Proust, Waisse, and Onimus to examine into its merits. The same subject was discussed at subsequent meetings. In the same number, M. de Mortillet reported the reception of a letter from M. Babert de Juillé, announcing the discovery of a trepanned skull in the dolmen of Bougon in Deux Sevres. M. Broca stated that this was the fifth locality wherein this custom had been traced.

Part xvii. of *Reliquiæ Aquitanicæ* has been received, containing the

conclusion of the paper on the Fossil Man from La Madelaine and Laugerie Basse; Notes on the Caribou of Newfoundland, by T. G. B. Lloyd; Notes on *Ovibos moschatus*, by E. Lartet; supplemental notes, and a series of indexes to the whole work.

In the third part of *Revue d'Anthropologie*, Dr. Berenger Feraud has a long and deeply interesting article upon the Oulofs of the Coast of Senegambia, embracing descriptions of their physical characters, manners, customs, intellectual characters, children, habitations, nourishment, language, the family and social organization.

Before the British Anthropological Institute, November 9th, Mr. Francis Galton read two papers: one on Heredity in Twins, the other on A Theory of Heredity. It appears that twin-bearing is hereditary, and that it descends through males and females about equally. In the latter paper it is argued that the germs which were selected for development into the bodily structure had a very small influence from a hereditary point of view, while it was those germs which were never developed but which remained latent, that were the real origin of the sexual element. This accounts for much that Mr. Darwin's theory of pangenesis over-accounted for, and is free from objections raised against the latter.

Dr. Robert Brown has translated Dr. Rink's celebrated work entitled *Tales and Traditions of the Eskimo*, with a Sketch of their Habits, Religion, Language, and other Peculiarities. Blackwood and Sons, of Edinburgh, are the publishers.

At the session of the Anthropological Section of the French Association, August 25th, M. de Mortillet advanced a new theory of the origin of bronze. After reviewing the countries where copper and tin are found, he concludes that bronze implements and weapons took their origin in India. He bases his conclusions mainly upon the following facts: Mysorine, the most reducible ore of copper, is found principally in India. In the peninsula of Malacca, and notably in the Isle of Banca, are found the richest deposits of tin in the world. The shortness of the handles of bronze weapons is paralleled by those of India at the present time. Finally, in the lacustrine deposits of the bronze age of Switzerland and Savoy, strange-shaped objects are found which have their analogues only in India. As an indication of the origin of the white-skinned races of Northern Africa, we find many of the same forms prevailing amongst them.

Among the exceedingly interesting objects brought from the Rio San Juan by Professor Hayden's party is a Peruvian double bottle or jar, similar in every respect to many of the whistling bottles of the last-named country. Whether this is an accidental resemblance or an article of commerce I am unable to say.

The Rev. M. Eells has sent to the Smithsonian Institution a manuscript of one hundred and sixty pages, containing a full account of the Twamish Indians of Hood's Canal, Puget's Sound. Nothing in connec-

tion with American ethnology is more desirable than that every Indian agent in the country would furnish us with a manuscript of the tone and tenor of this splendid work. — O. T. MASON.

AMERICAN ARCHÆOLOGY. — Two very interesting pamphlets have been published recently in Rio Janeiro, from the pen of Professor Ch. Fred Hartt: one entitled *Amazonian Tortoise Myths*, the other, *Notes on the Manufacture of Pottery among Savage Races*. In the former we have from the *Lingua Geral*, or modern Tupi language, spoken at Ereré, Santarem, and on the Tapajos River, the fables founded on the exploits of the Jabuti or tortoise, and other mythical animals, — monkeys, tapirs, buzzards, etc. In the latter is an account of the process of pottery-making and ornamentation, embracing the materials, the tools, the processes, and the products, together with a copious bibliographical reference.

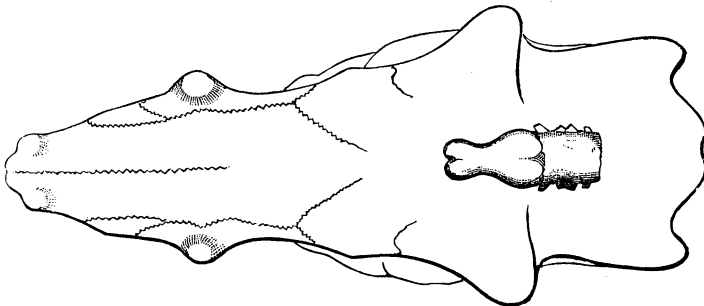
M. Roban, in the second number of *Le Musée Archéologique*, speaks of the handles used for flint hatchets by the ancient Mexicans. Among others he draws attention to weapons formed by inserting bits of obsidian in a grooved wooden handle, resembling the Polynesian shark's-teeth spears and swords. These obsidian weapons are described and figured in Schoolcraft, v. 290, and in the *Smithsonian Contributions*, vol. xi., art. ix., p. 180.

Mr. Hyde Clarke has published in pamphlet form, through Trübner & Co., an article from the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, entitled *Researches in Prehistoric and Protohistoric Comparative Philology, Mythology, and Archaeology*, in connection with the Origin of Culture in America and the Accad or Sumerian Families. The design of the author is, in his own words, "to bring archaic philology into reunion with those nascent studies of anthropology, archaeology, and mythology, which have met with acceptance and popularity." He has elsewhere spoken of the similarity between the Agaw of the Nile and the Abkhass of the Caucasus with the Omagua and Guarani of Brazil. He first draws attention to the Pygmean and other so-called prehistoric races of North and South America, of Africa, and of the islands of the Pacific Ocean, and then by parallels of culture he reviews the tribes of the two hemispheres, somewhat similarly to the plan pursued by E. B. Tylor in tracing the growth of culture, and by Colonel Lane Fox in following the evolution of implements and weapons. He regards, for philological purposes, Egyptian, Sumero-Peruvian, Chinese, Tibetan, and Dravidian languages as protohistoric. In addition to resemblances of language between the continents, the author enforces his opinions by parallels of racial characters, by similar customs of head-shaping, deformations of teeth, ears, and other members, circumcision, monumental mounds, monolithic and megalithic monuments, statues, towers, and osuaries; by their metallurgy, masonry, pottery, and weaving; by their like myths and beliefs; by their calendars, and by their social and

domestic customs. The author favors the view of Mr. Park Harrison and Professor Owen that migrations to America proceeded by the Sandwich and Easter Islands as well as by Behring Strait. He concludes by affirming that "the whole of the phenomena of man in America represent an arrested development of civilization, cut short, as compared with Europe and Asia, at a time so remote that in the Old World the great religions of the globe, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, had time to cover the Eastern hemisphere, while until the Spanish conquest the Americas had in the flux of centuries never heard their revelations." — O. T. MASON.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

THE BRAIN OF THE DINOCERAS. — This extinct animal, discovered by Professor Marsh in the Eocene beds of Wyoming, nearly equaled the elephant in size, but the limbs were shorter. The head could reach the ground, and there is no evidence that it carried a proboscis. Professor Marsh figures the skull in his second memoir, entitled *Principal Characters of the Dinocerata* (*American Journal of Science*, February, 1876).



(FIG. 9.) SKULL OF DINOCERAS, SHOWING RELATIVE SIZE OF THE BRAIN.

The accompanying cut (Fig. 9) gives an outline of the skull (seen from above, one eighth the natural size) of *Dinoceras mirabile*. The central figure near the base of the skull illustrates the remarkably small brain. Says Professor Marsh, "The brain-cavity in *Dinoceras* is perhaps the most remarkable feature in this remarkable genus. It proves conclusively that the brain was proportionately smaller than in any other known mammal, recent or fossil, and even less than in some reptiles. It was, in fact, the most reptilian brain in any known mammal. In *D. mirabile* the entire brain was actually so diminutive that it could apparently have been drawn through the neural canal of all the presacral vertebræ, certainly through the cervicals and lumbaræ."

MOUNTAIN-MAKING. — An abstract of Professor Suess's memoir on the Origin of the Alps has been furnished the *American Journal of Science* by Mr. E. S. Dana, which we further condense, often using the exact language of the abstract. According to the views of the early geol-